

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Wastewater Collection/Treatment System Improvements

LOCATION: Big Basin Redwoods State Park

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

DPR will improve the Wastewater Collection and Treatment System and Facilities at Big Basin Redwoods State Park to increase system reliability, protect public health, comply with local and state environmental health requirements, reduce maintenance efforts and protect the natural environment. This Notice revises and supersedes previous Notices for this work (SCH# 2004048125 & 2004028369). The project will:

- Rehabilitate up to 50 manholes and approximately 10,000 linear feet of sewer line. Lines in Huckleberry and Wastahi Campgrounds and along North Escape Road will be lined via existing manholes with no excavation or minimal excavation at a few bends; manholes will either be lined or replaced with minimum excavation.
- Replace 6" sewer line and suspension crossing at Opal Creek, working from banks and above stream. No work will occur in stream bed.

All of the following work will occur within the existing treatment plant boundary:

- Replace the existing chlorine disinfection system with an ultraviolet system.
- Replace the existing emergency generator system at existing location; upgrade generator from 30kW to 60kW.
- Rehabilitate trickling filter by installing a recirculation basin/pump, and connect to primary clarifier. Ground work will consist of a 24" x 36" x 36" basin within 54" of the trickling filter.
- Rehabilitate sand filter by modifying the distribution system to distribute the influent more evenly. All work will be done within the same foot print as the existing sand filter.
- Rehabilitate clarifiers by replacing tracks in the primary and secondary units. Also, the secondary clarifier will be rehabilitated by installing a scum baffle plate. All work will be within existing footprint of clarifiers.
- Rehabilitate solids handling system by fixing the inlet valve and improving the access road to provide better access to the back of the drying beds to utilize the back two beds. This will require the spreading of less than 10 cubic yards of gravel and moving a 6" diameter cast iron pipe from above to under ground. The maximum trenching for the pipe will be 10 feet long by 12 inches wide by 36 inches deep.
- Rehabilitate existing chemical feed system by replacing existing pumps, installing 3'x6' injection basin, and installing 205 lineal feet of chemical feed piping. All work will occur in existing lawn or paved area in two shared trenches.
- Replace existing 400-square-foot modular staff operation building with a 750-square-foot modular laboratory building in the same location as the existing and connected to existing utilities. Adjacent permeable surface ADA parking area with segmental retaining wall along slope requires removal of two small (6" or less diameter) redwood trees.
- Replace existing 420-square-foot modular laboratory building with a new 360-square-foot modular staff operations building in the same location as the existing and connected to existing utilities. Existing wooden retaining walls will be replaced with concrete block retaining walls with a concrete foundation. Creation of an ADA parking area within an existing paved area requires sawcutting, regrading and repaving of an 16'x14' area.
- Install new electronic sludge pump control system with time clock control in existing control building.
- Install new electronic notification system including annunciator panel and phone dialer in existing control room.
- Upgrade existing plumbing, and electrical systems as required by above work.

No trees over 20" diameter at breast height (DBH) will be impacted or removed as a result of this project.

The following table indicates what work will be allowed during marbled murrelet nesting season, March 24 to Sept. 15. No other construction will take place during that time.

Activity	Activity allowed from March 24 to Sept. 15
sandblasting	No
saw cutting	No
grading with heavy equipment	No
hand digging	Yes
Work inside buildings	Yes
skip loader use (up to 2 hours per day)	Yes
Concrete mixer	Yes
drilling	Yes if indoors
hammering	Yes if indoors, or less than ambient noise
welding	Yes, if less than ambient noise
generator use	Yes, if less than ambient noise
air compressor	Yes, if less than ambient noise
Demolition	Yes, if less than ambient noise
AC placement	Yes, if less than ambient noise

A USFWS-permitted California red-legged frog (CRLF) monitor will be on-site if there is ground-disturbing work using heavy equipment. The biological monitor will communicate issues directly to the State's Representative. In the event that CRLF are encountered in the project area during project construction by anyone, the State's Representative will put work on hold at that specific location and contractors will be redirected to other tasks. The monitor would notify appropriate DPR personnel and the USFWS immediately following any work stoppage.

A DPR-qualified resource ecologist will also instruct construction personnel in ways to recognize and protect CRLF or other sensitive natural resources prior to authorizing them to work in the proposed project area.

Open soil will be reseeded with species that are site-compatible; if area is lawn/turf, grass seed is acceptable. DPR-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to prevent soil erosion and runoff.

A spill prevention and response plan will be implemented.

Workers will employ State and Federal requirements of worker health and safety procedures designed for specific tasks, such as relining and replacement of sewer lines and manhole covers.

The public will be excluded from the immediate zone of active construction.

No work will occur in stream bed.

All ground-disturbing activities will be monitored at the discretion of a DPR-qualified archaeologist. If potentially significant resources are unearthed, work in the immediate area of the find will be temporarily halted or diverted until identification and proper treatment are determined and implemented. The DPR Service Center or District Cultural Resource Section would be notified a minimum of three working days prior to the start of ground-disturbing work to schedule monitoring, unless other arrangements are made in advance.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Acquisition and Development

EXEMPT STATUS: ☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 1, 2, 4 Section: 15301, 15302, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, and topographical features, involving negligible expansion of use beyond current levels; replacement of an existing structure, on the same site as the structure replaced, with substantially the same purpose and capacity; and minor alterations to the condition of land and vegetation that will not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees.

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